(b) if so, the details thereof and reasons therefor;

(c) the details of terms and conditions of agreements made between British Airways and Air india;

(d) whether a bilateral agreement between the two Governments is necessary for the implementation of such plan; and

(e) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATRAJAN) : (a) to (e) Increase in capacity entitlements for air services operations between India and U.K. is required to be discussed and finalised in the bilateral Civil Aviation talks between the two Governments. The dates for the next round of talks have not been fixed as yet. The issue of increase in capacity has in no way suffered a setback due to the proposed National Policy on Civil Aviation.

Loss Suffered by Railways

421. SHRIMATI PURNIMA VARMA :
DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEY :
SHRI SUNDER LAL PATWA :
SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the losses suffered by the Railways due to damage of Railway property during the agitations at various places of the country during 1996 and upto October 31, 1997; and

(b) the remedial measures the Government propose to take in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) : (a) The loss suffered by the Railways due to damage of Railways property on account of agitation over the Railways during the year 1996 and 1997 (upto October31) is Rs. 251,14,60,840/-(Rupees two hundred fifty one crore, fourteen lakh, sixty thousand, eight hundred forty only).

(b) The following remedial measures are being taken by the Railways :

(i) Exchange of advance information with Central/ State Intelligence Agencies and GRP/Civil police.

(ii) Co-ordination meetings with GRP/State police.

(iii) As and when any agitation is called by political parties/other organisations, the security on Railways is beefed up in Co-ordination with local police/GRP to safeguard Railway property.

(iv) Guarding etc. of Railway stations, vulnerable installations and sensitive areas are taken up.

Assistance for Public Transport in NCR Delhi

422. SHRI JAI PRAKASH AGARWAL : Will the Minister of URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government has provided any financial assistance for the development of various types of Public Transport in the urban areas of National Capital Region of Delhi during the last three years so far;

(b) if so, the details thereof, year-wise;

(c) whether any International Institution has proposed to provide financial assistance for the Public Transport System in Delhi; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI T. G. VENKATARAMAN) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. For implementation of Mass Rapid Transit System in Delhi, the Central Government has released a total financial assistance of Rs.64.27. crores during the last three years. The break-up of the assistance is as given below :

1994-95	(Rs. in Crores)
Preparation of Detailed Project Report	Rs. 6.37
Incidental Expenditure	Rs. 0.80
1995-96	
Incidental expenditure towards project preparation	Rs. 0.22
1996-97	
Equity for Delhi Metro Rail Corporn. Ltd.	Rs. 52.00
Preparation of Detailed Project Report for Delhi MRTS	Rs. 4.85
Incidental expenditure towards project preparation	Rs. 0.03

(c) and (d) The Overseas Economic Cooperation Fund of Japan have signed a Loan Agreement with the Government of India for providing first tranche of loan amounting to 14760 million Japanese Yen for Delhi MRTS Project at an interest rate of 2.3% p.a. The loan amount is to be released during the years 1997-98 to 1999-2000.

Loss Suffered by Railways

423. SHRI I.D. SWAMI : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Railways has suffered huge losses during the first half of 1996-97;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor; and

(c) the remedial measures taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Growth in Export by Bhilai Steel Plant

424. SHRI MADAN PATIL : Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Bhilai Steel Plant has registered a significant growth in export despatches during the first half of the 1997-98; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA) : (a) and (b) Bhilai Steel Plant has registered a significant growth in exports despatches during April-September,1997 *vis-a-vis* corresponding period last year. Exports of iron and steel materials from Bhilai Steel Plant during April - September,1997, April-September,1996 and percentage growth are as under :

Quantity : MT (Prov.)

Product	April-Sept. 97'	Apr.-Sept-96	%age Growth
Steel	291573	168530	73%
Pig Iron	91250	Nil	—
Total	382823	168530	127%

[Translation]

Touts

425. DR. BALIRAM :
SHRI MANIBHAI RAMJIBHAI CHAUDHARI :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the total number of touts apprehended in the reservation offices in the country and particularly in Delhi, Mumbai, Varanasi, Allahabad and Lucknow during the last five months;

(b) the total number of cases of connivance of railway employes in blackmarketing of tickets came to light; and

(c) the details of measures/action taken by the Government to check the blackmerketing of tickets?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) : (a) 1328 touts were apprehended on the Zonal Railways, including 138 touts in Delhi, Mumbai, Varanasi, Allahabad and Lucknow stations.

(b) 97.

(c) Frequent check are conducted to combat malpractices and blackmarketing of tickets at important railway stations and reservation offices. Touts who are anti-social/unscrupulous/unauthorised elements/persons operating in and around reservation offices/railway stations are apprehended and handed over to the police for prosecution under Section 143 of the Railway's Act,1989. Staff indulging in such activities are suitably taken up. Closed Circuit TVs are also being installed at few important railway stations to detect/watch the activities of the touts and anti-social elements.

[English]

Urban Land Ceiling Act, 1976

426. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY :
SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV :
SHRI NARAYAN ATHAWALAY :
SHRI ANNASAHIB M.K. PATIL :
SHRI SARAT PATTANAYAK :

Will the Minister of URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether a Group of Ministers have been examining the feasibility of amending the Urban Land (Ceiling and Regulation Act,1976;

(b) if so, the details of the proposed amendmens; and

(c) by what time the final legislation in this regard is likely to be taken up ?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI T.G. VENKATARAMAN) : (a) and (b) The Group of Ministers considered the proposals to amend the Urban Land(Ceiling and Regulation) Act,1976. However, after examining the matter in detail, the Government has now decided, in principle, to repeal the Act.

(c) The Urban Land (Ceiling and Regulation) Act, 1976 being a Central Act, can be amended/repealed after the Legisiature(s) of at least two concerned States pass a resolution empowering the Parliament to amend/repeal the Act in accordance with Article 252 (2) of the Constitution. Once such resolution are received from at least two states the Government will take further necessary action in the matter.

[Translation]

Demands of Porters

427. SHRI BHIMRAO VISHNUJI BADADE : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether some demands of porters of Mumbai are lying pending with the Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof;